

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3544

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: CROATIAN PARTY SECRETARY NOTES DIFFICULTIES IN PREPARATION FOR CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES

1. CROATIAN PARTY SECRETARY, DUSAN DRAGOSAVAC, RECENTLY MADE AN EXPLICIT STATEMENT ABOUT PROBLEMS IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES. SPEAKING BEFORE A SEMINAR FOR LEADERS OF THE ZAGREB PARTY ORGANIZATIONS (REPORTED BY THE ZAGREB PRESS ON JANUARY 17), DRAGOSAVAC NOTED THAT THE "SOCIALIST" SYSTEM WAS NOT "HOMOGENEOUS AND UNITED". HE STATED THAT "DIFFERENCES OF OPINION" ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF "SOCIALISM" HAD CAUSED DIFFICULTIES IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES. DRAGOSAVAC STATED THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD "PLEADED" FOR EQUAL RELATIONS WITHIN THE "INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S MOVEMENT" AND AGAINST ITS DOMINATION BY ANY ONE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO DRAGOSAVAC, THESE YUGOSLAV EFFORTS WERE SUPPORTED BY THE ITALIAN, FRENCH, AND SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTIES. THE CROATIAN PARTY SECRETARY CONCLUDED HIS WORDS

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ON THIS SUBJECT BY BLUNTLY DECLARING THAT POSSIBILITIES FOR WIDER

COOPERATION EXIST ONLY ON CONDITION THAT THERE IS NO INTERFERENCE
IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. COMMENT: DRAGOSAVAC IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE NUMBER TWO
PARTY OFFICIAL IN CROATIA, AND HIS WORDS DOUBTLESS REFLECT THE
VIEWS SHARED BY THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. HIS STATEMENT SHOULD ALSO BE

READ IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT ARRESTS IN YUGOSLAVIA OF PRO-
SOVIET COMINFORMISTS. KAISER

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